NOTES ON THE REVENUE HISTORY OF DARBHANGA RAJ

By

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The material on the Revenue History of Darbhanga Raj has been adapted from notes prepared in 1943 by the late Maulvi Mohammad Ilyas, a Translator on the staff of Darbhanga Raj. He was able to collect details from stray papers, Persian documents and Sanads in the Raj Mahafizkhana and other old papers in the Raj Library.

'Gandā' and 'Kauri' have been converted into 'Pai' or 'Paisa.' The dates stated according to Hijri calendar, have also been adapted for convenience.

This account of The revenue history of Darbhanga Raj is of considerable interest. It shows how valuable information could be extracted from old Zamindari papers. Similar study could be undertaken of documents in the Mahafizkhana of other Zamindaris in Bihar. Secondly, these materials were put together at a time when the late Maharajadhiraj of Darbhanga was keen on investigating the correct status of Darbhanga Raj during Mughal period.

I am grateful to Pandit Lakshmi Kant Jha, Ex-Chief Justice, Patna High Court and the Executor of the Will of late Maharajadhiraj of Darbhanga and to Pandit Girindra Mohan Mishra for having allowed me to use these papers in this publication. I would add that the views expressed in this article are entirely those of the late Maulvi Mohammad Ilyas.

In the beginning, the patryonymic of the Darbhanga House was "Upadhyaya". In the fourth generation it was changed to "Thakur, and in the eighteenth, to "Singh".

The appellation of "Thakur" was due to Sain Sankarsana Thakur who was a great ascetic. He acquired property near Khandwa in Madhya Pradesh. The acquisition of properties near Khandwa gave rise to the name of "Khandvala", which has been applied to this family ever since.[1]

In the case of the Darbhanga Raj, (reported at 6 Moore's Indian Appeals 164, Page 191) the Privy Council found that "The original founder of the family and many of his successors were not known as "Rajas" or "Maharajas", but as "Thakurs," and further observed. "In feudal times, the greatest barons and Princes in the feudal empire, in France specially, at all events, held their estates without titles ; one of them, I think De Courcy, boasting that he was neither King, nor Count, but Seigneur De

1. Vide Genealogical Table of Darbhanga Raj (printed in the Raj Press Darbhanga 1916).

Courcy. It may be just the same with this family. They may be called "Thakurs", they may be called "Rajas", but that makes no difference."

Mahamahopadhyaya Mahesh Thakur (1558-59), the fourteenth of this House, was the first Raja of Tirhoot to whom the Raj of Tirhoot was granted by Akbar the Great (1546-1605) in 1558 in recognition of his great learning and piety.

The titles of "Raja" and "Singh" were conferred on Raja Ragho Singh, eighteenth in this line, by Nawab Alivardi Khan, the then Nizam of Bengal and Behar (1740-56); and that of "Maharaja Bahadur" on the twenty first, Maharaja Chhatter Singh Bahadur in 1815, by Lord Moira, the then Governor-General of India. This title was renewed in favour of the successors.

The hereditary title of "Maharaja Bahadur" was conferred in 1907 on the late Maharajadhiraja Sir Rameshwara Singh and the hereditary title of "Maharajadhiraja" in 1920, although he had received the title of "Raja Bahadur" in 1886, before he succeeded his brother in 1898.

When the Sarkar Tirhut was granted to Mm. Mahesh Thakur by Akbar the Great in April, 1558, Tirhut had become a province of the Mughal Empire.

After the death of Mm. Mahesh Thakur, his successor, Gopal Thakur (1569-85) fell from the position near sovereignty to that of a Zamindar.

The Raja was not deprived of his possessions entirely but retained the largest Mahal, "Tirhut and its dependencies", covering 21398 bighas, with a land revenue at Rs. 32692/10/6 which composed his Khalsa during his own principality, and which hitherto became subject to payment of revenue. The tenures, which were feudatory under him, became separate Mahals, paying a land-tax into the treasury at Delhi, instead of at the Kachheri of Darbhanga Raj.[2]

While it appears that the Raja was made a representative of the Government and was employed merely to realise the revenue and transfer it to the public treasury, he was also empowered to levy internal duties and customs on articles of trade passing through his district (or Sarkar) and to impose petty taxes or abwabs on the cultivators, in addition to the portion of the Public revenue demandable from them individually.

In return for such service, at that time the Zamindar was allowed a fee of 10 percent on the total collections; and a portion of the land was

2. Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland. Vol 8, 1846, pp. 401-402.

exempted from the revenue assessment to the extent of 5 percent on the collections, under the denomination of Nankar, being intended for the personal support of Zamindar and his family.[3]

The revolution in the land-holding system of the Raj since the creation of Sarkar Tirhut upto the British period may briefly be noticed. This period can be divided into three stages viz. :—

(1) Early Period
(2) Middle Priod
(3) Modern Period

Early Period (1558-1662)

This period commences from Mm. Mahesh Thakur's time and ends with the regime of Sundar Thakur (1645-1662).

After the death of Mm. Mahesh Thakur, his successors held their positions as Chaudharis and Qanungos of the whole Sarkar Tirhut ; and enjoyed the privilege of the allowances thereof, during the successive periods of the Mughal Government.

Gopal Thakur had already been Chaudhari and Qanungo of the whole Sarkar Tirhut, since 1569. In 1574, the then newly appointed Diwan of Subah Bihar, did not recognise him as Chaudhaai of Tirhut. Hence, his younger brother, Achyuta Thakur petitioned the Emperor's Court at Delhi and was granted an audience. He stated all the facts to the Emperor *viz.* Akbar the Great. By an ordinance on 3 July, 1574, the posts of Gopal Thakur were confirmed as usual and his allowances or collection charges fixed at 1¼ Tanka i.e. Rs. 1/4/- per bigha for maintenance which yielded Rs. 3,33,080. The total area of the whole Sarkar Tirhut was put at were 2,66,464 bighas. That was, subsequently, held to be the "Dasturat."

It is evident from the sanads of successive grantees that they also got Nankar villages in several Parganas for their support as well as their family according to the then regulations which were applied in particular to the Zamindars.

Messrs. Shakespeare and Wilson have defined that Chaudhari was the title of landholders superior to Talukdars, whereas Qanungo was recognised as District Revenue-Officer.[4]

The position of "Darbhanga House" was that of a Zamindari though apparently the holders of the Raj were styled as Chaudhari and

3, Vide Glossary, p. 563.

4. Vide G. pp. 903 and 260 respectively.

Qanungo in reference to Sanads granted to them by the then Mughal Emperor as well as his Governors.

The position of the Zamindars during the time of the Mughal Government was in no way inferior to that of any of the erstwhile ruling chiefs.

On the basis of the evidence from the Sanads it is concluded that the rank or family title of "Chaudhari" remained tenable up to Sundar Thakur, during the first decades of the reign of Aurangzeb (1658-1707).

It is necessary to mention the names of those successors of Gopal Thakur who had been the Nankar holders. From the statistical details in the Sanads and other important papers, it is learnt that the recipients of Nankar were Narayan Thakur, Sundar Thakur, Narpati Thakur, Raja Ragho Singh, Raja Narendra Singh, Raja Pratap Singh as well as Raja Madho Singh.

Holders of Nankar Grant

Narayan Thakur (1623-50) succeeded his elder brother Pursottam Thakur (1607-23) in the last decade of the reign of Emperor Jahangir (1605-27) and lived till the 18th year of the reign of Emperor Shahjahan. He was loyal and faithful to the Emperor of Delhi and was highly appreciated by the then Governor of Bihar, Nawab Abdullah Khan Bahadur Firozjang for his loyalty towards the Emperor, and the services rendered in the political crisis of Pargana Bharwara on 25 September, 1633. Shaikh Moinuddin (probably Faujdar of Sirkar of Tirhoot) had personally spoken highly of his loyalty and fidelity to the Nawab.[5]

He obtained the village Sarson in Pargana Bhaur for maintenance on 16 May 1641; and thereafter, he was granted village Bijli in Pargana Berai as gift (Inam) on 17 March, 1644, on the condition that he would make the specified Pargana prosperous.[6]

Sundar Thakur had formerly got village Malangia in Pargana Jarail from the Government of Bihar in 1656. On the testimony of his loyalty, Sultan Mohammad, the grand-son of Shahjahan (the then Governor of Bihar and the son of Emperor Aurangzeb), also confirmed the village in his favour, on 30 May, 1656.[7]

The status of the Rajas was that of the Zamindars. According to the prevalent usages they were responsible for realising public revenue,

5. Vide Parwana dated 22nd Rabiulawal 1043 Hijri.
6. Vide Parwanas dated the 6th Safar 1051 Hijri and 19th Safar 1054 Hijri respectively.
7. Vide Sanad dated the 5th Shaban 1066 Hijri.

making the country prosperous and helping the Imperial Faujdar in the circumstances of political crises. They were accordingly granted Nankar villages excluding the "Dasturat", for their maintanance.

Middle Period (1662-1776)

This period commences with the tenures of Mahinath Thakur, the son of Sundar Thakur and ends with that of Raja Pratap Singh. This is the most important period in view of frequent changes in the land holding system.

Mahinath Thakur (1661-90), the first Raja of this period was loyal to the Emperor Aurangzeb. He fought against Raja Gaj Singh, the Raja of Bettiah (1659-94) acting on the orders of Emperor Aurangzeb. The Raja of Bettiah had incurred the anger of the Emperor by annexing several surrounding districts. He was captured by the imperial troops and carried as prisoner to Delhi. Mahinath Thakur took possession of his Simraon fort. It was eventually given back to the Raja of Bettiah in exchange for Pargana Babra in the Champaran District.[8]

The Extension of the Raj

Mahinath Thakur rose high as a ruling chief. The practice of hereditary succession and the right to mortagage and sell the assumed tenure of ownership for the Rajas, and thus extensive tracts came under the hold of successive generations of this "House".

Akbar's assessment of 1582 was revised in 1685 during the reign of Aurangzeb by Nawab Murshid Quli Khan (the founder of Murshidabad city and the then Nizam of Bengal and Bihar) so that the public revenue was raised to Rs. 769287. Unfortunately, no records have yet been found to confirm the engagement of this Raja in revenue collection and to verify the figures. But it is ascertained that he had taken almost all the Sarkar Tirhut settlement from Nawab Murshid Quli Khan and thus had recovered a great deal of landed property in Tirhut.

In addition to this, he was, probably, the recipient of an extensive esate in Purnea called Pargana Dharampur from the Mughal Government which were managed, later on, in three Circles viz. Birnagar, Gondwara and Bhawanipur. He was succeeded by his brother, Narpati Thakur (1690-1701) who during his elder brother's administration, was deputed to subdue the Zamindar of Morang in December, 1863 accompanied by Nawab Mirza Khan, the Faujdar of Sarkar Tirhut, and became victorious.

8. Vide Mithila Bhashmaya Itihas, p. 155 and Golden Book of India, p. 67.

The Emperor Aurangzeb granted the whole Zamindari of Pargana Dharampur in recognition of this making his brother Mahinath Thakur, a protector of that tract which was bounded on the north by Morang territory. Narpati Thakur received a large grant of Nankar village i.e. 86 Bighas and odd in Darbhanga town, viz. Mohalla Sarai Ramchauk and others as well as Taluka Sonhan, containing nine villages in 1695, from Nawab Fedai Khan, the then Governor of Bihar.[9]

Raja Ragho Singh (1701-39), the third Raja of this period was one of the most famous Rajas of his time. He ruled for 39 years from the last decades of the reign of Emperor Aurangzeb to the last decades of the reign of the 10th Moghal Emperor, Mohammad Shah (1719-48) the "Merry Monarch."

He was the first Raja of this period to acknowledge the supremacy of the Murshidabad Government after the dismemberment of the Mughal Empire; and this was continued by the succeeding Rajas upto Raja Pratap Singh (1760-75), the last Raja of this period, when the supremacy of the said Government was terminated in 1765.

Frequent references are found to have been made by Mohammadan historians to this Raja as an independent ruler, during the time of Nawab Shujauddaula, the then Viceroy of Bengal and Bihar (1727-39).

In the words of the author of Rayazus Salatin, "The Raja was a refractory turbulent Chief, whose territory had never been intruded upon by the armies of former Nizams, and who had never acknowledged the subjection of any of the Subedars and did not care for the payment of the Government revenue. However, in order to subdue the Raja, Nawab Alivardi Khan (1740-56)[10] made an inroad into the territory of Raja and became victorious, plundered his territory and possessed an immense booty and made a settlement with the Raja with regard to the payment of Government revenue other than receiving a vast sum of money, in present. The Imperial troops were enriched with the booty; and the Mughal Government became vigorous."[11]

On the other hand, the authors of Aini-Tirhut and the Bengal District Gazeteers write that the Raja had obtained from the Moghal

9. Vide G. No. 7326.

10. On the deposition of Nawab Fakhrud-daula (1727-32) Subah Bihar was attached with the Nizamat of Nawab Shuja-daula, and Nawab Alivardi Khan was made Lieutenant Governor of Bihar in 1732.

11. Vide p. 296.

Government the lease of the whole of the Sarkar Tirhut, on the payment to Government of an annual revenue of Rs. 1,00,000. But soon afterwards, Nawab Alivardi Khan learning that in 1685 the revenue of Sarkar Tirhut was officially returned at Rs. 7,69,287 led an expedition against him in 1733, seized his property, and the Sarkar Tirhut was leased out to others. The Raja, consequently, surrendered himself; and was ordered back to Tirhut as a mere revenue collector, a few villages as Nankars and a *Grant of "Saddui*" (2% on the collections) being given to him, on condtion that "He should do justice and relieve distress; that he should put the country in a flourishing state and keep it so; that he should supply the ryots with the necessaries for cultivation, and be equally answerable to Government for the revenue collected, through his dependants as for those immediately under his own superintendence."[12]

When Raja Narendra Singh (1743-60), the 5th Raja of this period succeeded his brother, Raja Vishnu Singh in 1743, he recovered his princely position from Nawab Alivardi Khan in recognition of his great loyalty towards the Government. Many of his activities are recorded in the History of Murshidabd Nizamat. He obtained the Malikana right from the Nawab for Parganas which were handed over to some others in shape of Altamgha and Jagir during the time of his father, Raja Ragho Singh. He also held Khas. He also received many villages as Nankar for subsistence and Mokarri on condition that he engaged himself for the revenue collection and support the interests of the Mughal Government.

During the time of this Raja Nawab Zainuddin Ahmad Khan Haibat Jang Bahadur (1740-48)[13] (the then Lieutenant-Governor of Bihar), obtained the whole Sarkar Tirhut in 1743 in his Jagir from the Emperor Mohammad Shah; and left Patna for Tirhut accompanied by Mehdi Nesar Khan and others for the management of his Jagir. The Nawab camped at Bhawara, the capital city of the Raja. The Nawab lived at Bhawara for more than two years and built there many residential palaces; and eventually called his wife, Aman Begam and personal staff, and undertook management of his Jagir very carefully. However, two years later, he had to go to Patna to subdue General Mustafa Khan Bahar Jang Baha-

12. Vide Ainai Tirhut Part I, p. 33 & O. Malley Gazetteer of Bengal districts. Volume VI, p. 143.

13. He was the nephew and son-in-law of Nawab Aliverdi Khan & the fathar of Nawab Sirajuddaula. In 1747, the Pathans of Darbhanga rebelled against him under the leadership of Shamsher Khan and he was killed at Patna by Muradsher Khan of Darbhanga on 21 January, 1748.

dur, who had rebelled against Nawab Alivardi Khan Bahadur in 1746. The Raja also accompanied the Nawab.[14]

During the time of this Raja, the revision of the revenue was carried out again in 1750 by Nawab Alivardi Khan, which amounted to Rs. 820042 in Tirhut as against the previous revision of Nawab Murshid Quli Khan in 1685 when the jama was Rs. 769287 and Rs. 479495 under Akbar's assessment in 1582. Unfortunately no records enlist of the figures of revenue demandable by the Government from the Raja.

The exact origin and nature of the charges "Dasturat-Malikana" is obscure. The term "Dasturat" is the plural of "Dastur" and means a customary fee or allowance. It was allowed by the Mohammadan Government on the Collector of Zamindar.[15]

The Raja obtained it at the beginning from Akabar the Great in 1574. It was included in the "Malikana" during the time of Murshidabad Nizamat.

The term "Malikana" is derived from "Malik" the Arabic word for "Owner" or "Proprietor"; and it means pertaining or relating to the Malik, or proprietor, as his right or due It allowed the Zamindar a sum not less than 5 p. c. and not exceeding 10 p. c., on the net amount of the public revenue during the Mughal period.[16]

Though the Raja had formerly obtained the Malikana right as well as Nankar villages from the Nawab by virtue of only one sanad, he applied to the Nawab Alivardi Khan in 1754 for a clarification of the position of Dasturat-Malikana ; because, if the Zamindar was removed from the management of the estate, the Nankar was also withdrawn in contradiction of the Malikana terms.[17]

The Raja submitted a petition before the Nawab to the effect that the Nankar villages had been granted to him due to the regular payment of revenue and his loyalty towards the Empire, and the Dasturat-Malikana had been confirmed long ago and excluded from the Government revenue which had no connection with the Nankar villages. The Raja prayed that a Parwana regarding the right of Dasturat-Malikana should be issued in his favour, separately. After an enquiry, the Nawab allowed the claim, during the last regnal year of Emperor Ahmad

14. Vide Sairul-Mota-akhirin Part II, pp. 527-528.
15. Wilson's Glossary p. 127.
16. Ibid., p. 325.
17. Ibid., p. 367.

Shah (1748-54). The accountants of Paraganas of Sarkar Tirhut were directed to treat this right as separate from the Government revenue and to pay the amounts annually on the present Jama to the Raja, without any obstruction.[18]

Dasturat-Malikana contained the following Rasumats which were granted to Raja Narendra Singh :—

(1) Saddui—The allowance of 2 p.c. on the net revenue.
(2) Fi Rupia Ek-ani—The allowance of 1 anna per rupee on the net revenue.
(3) Sirdehi—The allowance for dispossessed villages which were granted to anyone as Nankar.
(4) Dastur Muqaddami—The allowance of the representative of the public revenue or headman fee.
(5) Malikana—The allowance for dispossessed lands of villages.
(6) Sair Chowthai—One-fourth out of the actual Government collection on the personal properties in addition to the revenue.
(7) Dastur-Taraf Khas—The allowance for those villages which were held by the government directly or by the nobles of the court.

The Statistical details of the villages that were granted to Raja Narendra Singh as Nankar and Mokarri are given below :—

Nankar Grants[19]

The village Sajanpur in the Pargana Kasma Nagarbasti was granted by Nawab Mohammad Panah Khan in 1748 to the Raja for maintenance, generation after generation.

The village Sandhwara in the Pargana Nanpur was granted as hereditary in 1754 by Nawab Alivardi Khan Bahadur Mahabat Jang.

Three villages, namely Korahiya, Jainagar and Chichri Buzrung in Pargana Bachaur were given in permanent grant to the Raja in 1754, for his loyalty towards the Government, by Nawab Alivardy Khan Bahadur.

In addition to the above Nankar grants, the previous Nankar villages were also confirmed by Nawab Alivardi Khan, and his successor, Nawab Mirjafar Ali Khan re-confirmed the old and new grants in favour of Raja.

18. Vide Parwana dated the 11th Ziquad 7 Jaloos.
19. Vide G. No. 7326.

Mokarri Grants

The village Chakdeh Madhubani (Modern Madhubani Town) in Pargana Hati was granted permanently as Mokarri Istamarari to the Raja in 1755, by Nawab Alivardi Khan, with an annual Government Revenue of Rs. 155/9/9 which was confirmed in his favour by Raja Ram Narayan, the then Lieutenant Governor of Bihar in 1757, during the time of Nawab Mirjafar Ali Khan, the then Nizam of Bengal and Bihar.[20]

The village Mohammadi Nagar or Rosera town in Pargana Kasma Nagarbasti, was permanently granted as Mokarri Istamarai to Raja Narendra Singh in 1754 by Nawab Alivardi Khan with an annual Government Revenue of Rs. 1400/-.[21]

The village Kanakpur Zamin Mauza Sori Patti in Pargana Hati was granted as Mokarri Istamarari in 1758 by Nawab Mirjafar Ali Khan with an annual Govenment Revenue of Rs. 249/8/-.[22]

The Raja was held in such high esteem by Nawab of Murshidabad that besides his personal grant, his Rani Padmawati also received large grants of property consisting of 10 villages scattered in 7 Parganas for her personal use and charity on the 6th March 1753, from Nawab Alivardi Khan Bahadur.[23]

Raja Pratab Singh (1760-76)

After the death of Raja Narendra Singh, his adopted son, Pratab Singh became the Raja during the time of Nawab Jafar Ali Khan, the Nizam of Bengal and Bihar. The supremacy of Murshidabad Government declined after the acquisition of Diwani by the British in 1765 from Shah Alam, the Emperor of Delhi (1757-1806). He removed the family residence from the Fort of Bhawara ; and built a new Rajbari at Darbhanga in 1762.

During the time of Nawab Mir Qasim Ali Khan, it seems, all the Nankar villages were attached with the Nizamat Mahal and some handed over to the Jagirdars. Eventually, the Nawab restored them to the Raja and issued a Parwana under his seal on the 18th April 1763, to Saikh Abdul Shakoor to release the Nankar villages of Raja from the attachment which had been ordered under the resumption as Nizamat as well

20. Vide nos. 1014 and 1015 Pargana Hati.
21. Vide no. 3210 Pargana Kasma.
22. Vide no. 1033 Pargana Hati.
23. Vide Parwana dated 27th Rabius-Sani 5 Jaloos of Emperor Ahmad shah.

as Jagir holdings, and directed him to enjoin the Jagirdars not to interfere in any way with the Nankar villages of Raja.[24]

It is found from a Parwana dated 14th Rabius-Sani 4 Jaloos that the Raja had in his possession Rs. 22700/- as Nankar Nakdi (subsistance money) and 169 Nankar villages scattered over 67 Parganas of Sarkar Tirhut in addition to the Dasturat Malikàna, which were confirmed in his favour by Nawab Shamsuddin Ali Khan Bahadur, on the 21st October 1763 in recognition of great loyalty and regular payment to the Government.

In 1764, when Nawab Mir Mohammad Kazim Khan Bahadur[25] succeeded to Nawab Mir Shamsuddin Ali Khan Bahadur in the Nizamat Bihar Province, he confirmed the title of Dasturat-Malikana on the 15th November 1764, in favour of the Raja.[26]

A re-adjustment of Alivardi Khan's assessment, made in 1765, showed that out of a gross revenue of Rs. 820042, only Rs. 245212 actually reached the government, the difference being appropriated by Jagirdars, Nawab Mohammad Raza Khan,[27] the Subedar of Bihar who was incharge of the revision proceedings of 1765, returned three whole Parganas in Tirhut with a revenue of Rs. 142070 as his own Jagir and allowed many similar "unconstitutional alienations."

The gross revenue of Tirhut rose from Rs. 820042 at Nawab Mohammad Raza Khan's revision in 1765 to Rs. 851829 in 1787.[28]

The Raja received the following amounts from the Jagir Mahals:—

Sl. no.	Particulars of Mahal.	Amount of Dasturat-Malikana. Rs.	As.	P.	Remarks.
1.	Mahal Nazri included in the Tahsil of Jagir. ...	5890	— 8	— 3	
2.	Mahal Zabti. ...	9545	— 0	— 6	
3.	Mahal Jagir and Altamgha.	12181	— 5	— 6	
	Grand Total :—	27616	— 14	— 3	

24. Vide Parwana dated 5th Showal 1176 Hijri.
25. He was the brother of Nawab Mirjafar Ali Khan Bahadur.
26. Vide G. No. 7370.
27. He was the son of Hakim Hadi Ali Khan Shirazi. Lord Clive appointed him as Deputy Nawab at Murshidabad during the time of Nawab Najmud-daula, the Nizam of Bengal, Bihar & Orissa and the tittle of "Mozaffar Jang" was confered upon him. Afterwards he got the titles of "Moinuddaula, Mobarezulmulk-Khakhana (Sairul Motakherin, Part II, p. 772).
28. Darbhadga Survey Settlement Report, pp. 16-17.

Darbhanga Raj under the early English Administration

When British administration was formally introduced in 1769, European supervisors were appointed to control 'the native officers and were directed to obtain a history of the tracts, under their charge with reference to their conditions, revenues, abwabs, capacity of the soil and etc. The result of these enquiries was to show that there was "Habitual extortion and injustice, concealment and evasion, by which government was defrauded of a considerable portion of its just demands." In 1770, a Revenue Council was established at Patna, to which Nawab Hosiyar Jang, George Winstart, Maharaja Shitab Roy and others were nominated.[29] Raja Pratap Singh then got a grant of Mokarri for the Sarkar Tirhut which was his ancestral property, and Mr. Kelly was appointed as Revenue Superintendent of Tirhut to superintend the collection of the revenue.

In 1771 a difference of opinion arose between the Raja and Mr. Kelly with the result that the Raja was debarred from the privilege of the said Mokarri and was replaced by Bir Narayan. In the account books of that year (1178-Fasli), the village accountants charged the arrears for the Raja. For this reason, Bhawani Dutta Misra, the Agent of Raja was put into jail and Maharaja Shitab Roy Bahadur confiscated all the Nankar villages and stopped the payment of Zar-i Malikana Dasturat of Nazri, Zabti and Nizamat Mahals of Sarkar Tirhut in (1179 Fasli), on account of the arrears of the revenue,[30] fixed Rs. 1000/- as monthly allowance for the Raja which continued till his death (1776).

It is evident from the above facts that the Rajas of this period were hereditary and they had powers which they exercised in Tirhut, as representatives of the state. They were responsible for collecting revenue, preserving peace and maintaining law and order and their position was, therefore, not merely that of the Zamindars.

The Quasi Sovereign status of this "House" in the Mughal period was not retained after the establishment of the British rule. The British Government, however, recognised the rights of hereditary succession and the impartibility of the estate which were held since its origin.

Modern Period

Raja Madho Singh(1776-1808)

During the life time of his elder brother Raja Pratab Singh, he obtained two Nankar villages in the Parganas Ahilwara and Ahins viz.

29. Vide Sairul Motakherin, Part II, p. 783.
30. Vide no. 2279 Bachaur.

Rasulpur and Kumrad Bela alias Supaul respectively from the then Diwan of Bihar, Raja Dhiraj Narayan in 1764, in recognition of his loyalty and his assistance to the government officers in the collection of revenue.[31] This was confirmed by Nawab Mir Jafar Ali Khan on 22nd September, 1764[32] and by Maharaja Shitab Roy on 30th March, 1767[33] and by several others, later on. When Raja Madho Singh succeeded his brother in 1776 he applied to the Supreme Council of Calcutta for the restoration of the Estate of Darbhanga, the Dasturat Malikana as well as Nankar villages and demanded a refund of the sum of Dasturat Malikana for the period of 6 years i.e. 1771-1777 for which period it was attached with the Nizamat Mahal.

When the revenue was paid in full, the attachment was withdrawn and the Governor-General-in-Council ordered the Council of Azimabad (Patna) to refund the amounts. The Raja was thus able to recover the amount of Rs. 104504/12/3 in 1778 in Dasturat-Malikana for the specified period, from the treasury of Patna. Parwanas were issued by the Council of Azimabad in the names of the Amils of both the Nizamat as well as the Jagir and Altamgha estates, on the 19th February, 1778 to pay the Dasturat-Malikana regularly, with effect from 1185 Fasli; the right of these items having been confirmed by the orders of the Governor-General in Council.[34]

When this right was confirmed, the Raja deputed his Agents in the Jagir estates to realize the sum of Dasturat-Malikana accordingly. But the Agents of Jagirdars interfered with those of Raja so that the Raja was obliged to complain to the higher authorities of the Government. The agents of Jagirdars were, thereupon, charged not to interfere with the orders of the Raja.[35]

When the estates were also restored to the Raja, the annual revenue was Rs. 260600/12/- including Dasturat-Malikana, out of which the sum of Dasturat-Malikana was Rs. 15556/14/- and the rest Rs. 245043/14/- was Public revenue which included the Nizamat as will as the Nazri Mahals. Details of which run as follows :—

31. Vide Parwana no. 3203 dated 19 Rabi-ul-Awal 5 jaloos.
32. Vide confirmatory Parwana no. 3194 parg. Ahis dated 1st Rabi-us-Sani 5 Jaloos of Shah Alam.
33. Vide Parwana no. 3185 Ahis dated 27 Shawal 8 Jaloos of Shah Alam.
34. Vide Parwana G. No. 7328 & Statement G. No. 733.
35. Vide Parwana dated 30.4.1778.

Sl. no.	Mahal Nizamat.	Mahal Nazri.	Revenue	Dastur-Malikana.	Grand Total.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	
1.	Sarkar Tirhut	———	208552-9-6	15556-14-0	224109-7-6	
2.	———	Pargana Nagarbasti	15956-12-0	— —	15956-12-0	
3.	———	Pargana Nisankpur Korha	6709- 4-0	— —	6709- 4-0	
4.	———	Pargana Hati	7671-11-3	— —	7671-11-3	
5.		Pargana Ramchaud	1887- 2-9	— —	1887- 2-9	
6.	———	Pargana, Havi	4266- 6-6	— —	4266- 6-6	
Grand Total :—			245043-14-0	15556-14-0	260600-12-0	

In the next year, the estates were again settled with the Raja on his application to the East India Company on the 18th December 1778, on the following terms :—

1. That according to the Kabuliat executed in 1186 F. (1778-79) the Raja should pay into the Public treasury a sum of Rs. 245043/14/- exclusive of Dasturat and Malikana.

2. That from the commencement of the year 1187 Fasli (1779-80) Rs. 250590/6/9 should be demandable from the Raja as Public fixed revenue inclusive of Dasturat and Malikana.

3. That the said Raja should promote the happiness and well being of the people on his estates, and should pay special attention to the increase of cultivation and the augmentation of produce.

4. That he should refrain himself from collecting such cesses or Abwabs as Sood (interest) Batta, Salami Tehwari aud etc., and should collect only such Abwabs as were in use up to the year 1185 Fasli (1777-78).

5. That he should make no demand for past years, and should not remove any land granted for charitable purpose and etc. without the orders of the East India Company, and should not make any such grant without the previous sanction of the Company.

6. That he should cause Public Roads to be properly watched, and the lives and property of the travellers to be protected and that he should not harbour robbers and bad characters within his territory.

7. That no plea of draught or inundation should be entertained as an execuse for non-payment of the Government Revenue, and that if this fell into arrears, the Company might put up the defaulting Mahals for sale, and cause the amount of revenue to be paid into the treasury.

8. It was not to be understood that the title of Maharaja Raj Ballab Bahadur, the Jagirdar of Pargana Nagarbasti and etc. to the said Jagir is vitiated in any way. If the Jagir be resettled with him, Raja Madho Singh will have to withdraw his hands from the same.

The administrative system of that time in comparison with that of the present day was not satisfactory. Sometimes laws passed by the Governor-General were duly imposed while others were rejected. There was no stability in the laws and the principles of the time. On the strength of the above orders, all Dasturat-Malikana which had been attached with from 1771-77 were refunded to the Raja and from 1777 he got absolute possessian of his Estate. Soon, in 1780, the Sanad Mukarri which was issued in favour of the Raja, was cancelled; and Raja Bhawani Singh[36] took the settlement of Darbhanga Estate in contact with the proposal of Raja Kheyali Ram on excess over the limited amount to Rs. 330590/9/9 from the Goyernor-General.

Raja Madho Singh demanded the sum of Dasturat-Malikana of Nizamat as well as Nazri and Zabti Mahals from the Raja Bhawani Singh and others as usual. But they all objected so that the Raja was compelled to place the same before the Council of Azimabad. The Council approved of the proposal dealing with it as separate from the Government revenue and instructed the "native officers" and the Thikedars of Mahal Nizamat of Sarkar Tirhut to pay the Dasturat-Malikana as directed by the Collector since the Malgoozars had already executed a deed of agreement for the payment of the same on each instalment.[37] Raja Bhawani Singh did not accept this and applied to the Governor-General in Council at Calcutta that the claim of the Raja regarding the Dasturat-Malikana was higher than usual. The Governor-General asked Mr. Maxwell, the then Revenue Chief of Azimabad, to enquire into the matter and report. Hence Mr. Maxwell called for the disbursement report of Dasturat-Malikana for

36. He was the younger son of Maharaja Shitab Roy and the younger brother of Maharaja Kalyan Singh, the last Indian Governor of Bihar.

37. Vide Parwana dated 19.2 1781.

1187 Fasli and that of the demand of the Raja for 1189 Fasli (1781-82) from the Sadar Qanungo.

The Qanungo submitted both the required reports which showed that the claim of the Raja was not really unusual. Both the Qanungo's reports were sent to the Council of Calcutta by Mr. Maxwell. Then they were directed to Patna Council for proper justification and judgement ragarding the Dasturat-Malikana. Consequently the members of the Council of Azimabad decreed in favour of Raja Madho Singh on 11 September 1781 and allowed the Raja to get Rs. 54529/8/9 as Dasturat-Malikana of Nizamat Mahal for 1188 Fasli and also entitled him to realise the same in future from the Zamindars as well as the Thikedars. This was to be proportionate to the present Jama of the years to come on the same scale.[38] There after, the Amils or native officers were informed through the Council of Azimabad on 22 November 1781 to direct the and Zabti Malguzars to pay the Dasturat-Malikana of Nizamat Mahal as well as Nazri to the Raja because it had been separated from the Government revenue by the Revenue Committee of Calcutta[39] and decided in favour of Raja.

Eventually, Raja Bhawani Singh fell into arrears for the Mahals settled with him and Raja Kheyali Rai was imprisoned in 1781, and the estate of Raja Madho Singh was once more restored to him in the month of September 1781 at the annual revenue of Rs. 290181/14/6 exclusive of Dasturat-Malikana which was fixed in the same year at Rs. 44362/15/3. The Nizamat Mahal and the farmers, native officers as well as the Jagirdars were directed by the Council of Azimabad on 16 February 1782 to pay the Dasturat-Malikan as usual from the Tahsil Nizamat to the Raja as it had been restored to him since 1777 and on 1 December, 1778 the orders were repeated.[40] The public revenue and the Dasturat-Malikana continued the same amount till 1785 and 1788 respectively without any change. In 1786, the revenue was fixed at Rs. 295181/14/6, in excess of five thousand which continued for 1789 till the operation of the decennial settlement, and in 1789 the Dasturat-Malikana of Nizamat Mahal was decreased to the sum of Rs. 42071/5/9.

In 1781, an important administrative change was introduced by the British Government. Districts were placed under the charge of the European Collectors for the first time subject to the control of a Committee of Revenue in Calcutta. The short sketch of the early settlement

38. Vide G. No. 7330.

39. Vide G. No. 8013.

40. Vide Parwana dated 16.2.1782 and 1.12.1783 respectively.

of the Darbhanga Raj has already been given above when the revenue administration was introduced by the Government. The quinquennial settlement of the land revenue was made in 1772, and expired in 1777, in the absence of the Darbhanga Estate. Annual Settlements were made from 1778 to 1780 and at the same time Raja Madho Singh Bahadur was restored to his ancestral Estate, accounts of which have already been described above. Tirhut was placed under an European Collector. Mr. Francis Grand for the first time in 1782. He was succeeded by Mr. Robert Bathurst on the 27th August 1787, who carried out the decennial settlement.

Jagirdars And Darbhanga Raj

It has already been mentioned that besides the Mahal Nizamat and Nazri-Zabti, the Raja was entitled to get Dasturat-Malikana of Rs. 12181/5/6 directly from the Jagirdars but in 1779 the Malikana of Jagir and Altamgha Mahals were fixed at Rs. 23339/6/9 as per Council's Parwana dated 21 October, 1779 on the basis of the statement of qanungo. The Jagirdars objected and appealed to the Council of Azimabad for the Moharrir's allowance amounting Rs. 977/10/- which was allowed in the interest of the Raja. Consequently, after deducting the Moharrir's allowance, the Council fixed the amount of Dasturat-Malikana at Rs.22, 361/12/9 with effect from 1779-80. The agents of Jagir and Altamgha estates were directed through the Parwana dated 24 February, 1780 to pay the said amounts annually to the Raja. Each Jagirdar was objected to pay Dasturat-Malikana according to separate allotment by this Parwana. Details of which in respect of each of the Jagir and Altamgha Mahals together with the names of the Parganas comprised therein and the amount of Dasturat-Malikana payable in respect of each of them having been found, are given below. It appears from the papers that such allotment remained vital and permanent and by virtue of this allotment, the Raj had been realising the sum of Dasturat-Malikana from the Government till the Zamindari was abolished.

Details in respect of each of the Jagir and Altamgha Mahals together with the names of the Parganas comprised therein and the amount of Dasturat-Malikana payable against them :—

Sl. no.	Name of the Jagirdars and Altamghadars.	Parganas under the Jagirdars.	Total number of the villages under each Pargana.	Annual amount of Dasturat-Malikana assessed by the Council.			Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5			6
				Rs.	As.	P.	
1.	Nawab Muzaffar Jung.	Bharwara	156—12K	2823	12	6	
		Bhala	17	856	15	0	
		Tirsath	10	148	5	3	
		Bachhaur (Nankar jai-nagar & etc.)		3127	10	0	
		Total—	183—12K	6956	10	9	
2.	Maharaja Kalyan Singh	Barail	95— 3K	1155	8	0	
		Jarail	32	850	9	0	
		Total—	127—3K	2006	1	0	
3.	Ahmad Ali Khan	Bhour	60	342	11	0	
		Total—	60	342	11	0	
4.	Md. Erij Khan	Basotar	53—4K	554	2	3	
		Jakhar	33	222	10	6	
		Tirsath	1—8K	74	15	9	
		Loam	2—9K	54	0	6	
		Padri	39	107	3	9	
		Bharwara	4	73	7	6	
		Bhala	16	344	5	3	
		Nizamuddin-pur. Bogra	12	136	8	3	
		Total—	162—5K	1567	5	6	
5.	Mehrullah Khan	Ahilwara	17	703	10	6	
		Purab Bhigo	3	17	8	0	
		Hirni	11—8K	27	14	3	
		Tarso	11	41	12	3	
		Morwah	1	5	6	3	
		Total—	48—8K	796	2	9	

1	2	3	4	5			6
6.	Abul Qasim Khan	Pingi	2	36	10	6	
		Naridigar	3	64	10	6	
		Total—	5	101	5	0	
7.	Ali Asghar	Gadhchound	5	72	7	9	
		Akbarpur	5	123	13	0	
		Total—	10	196	4	9	
8.	Raham Ali Khan	Gadhchaund	18	290	3	0	
		Tirsath	8-8K	143	7	6	
		Total—	26-8K	433	10	6	
9.	Khadim Hussin Khan	Tirsath	17-8K	279	6	3	
		Tilakchaund	5-8K	64	10	9	
		Gadhchaund	6	212	2	9	
		Total—	29-0	556	3	9	
10.	Hedayat Husain Khan	Mahila	8	164	7	0	
11.	Hassan Raza Khan	Gopalpur	20	367	5	6	
12.	Khairun Nisa	Dharaur	9	80	1	9	
13.	Md. Shakir Khan	Bhigo	2	19	6	9	
		Loam	1	34	0	9	
		Nizamuddinpur	9	11	5	0	
		Naredigar	1	1	9	9	
		Tirsath	4	10	7	6	
		Bharwara	20	258	2	6	
		Ladauri	2	62	6	6	
		Gadhcaund	3	14	12	3	
		Total—	42	412	3	0	
14.	Md. Taqi Khan	Sihora	17	237	2	6	
		Bharwara	9	132	1	3	
		Barail	4	60	4	0	
		Jakhar	34	356	1	6	
		Total—	64	785	9	3	

1	2	3	4	5			6
15.	Gulam Haidar Khan	Ughara	32	137	2	3	
		Pachhim Bhigo	2	22	8	0	
		Total—	34	159	10	3	
16.	Md. Ali Khan	Barail	5-9K	151	4	3	
17.	Mir Faylullah	Barail	17-10K	123	15	0	
18.	Mir Shafiullah	Barail	9	97	4	6	
19.	Mir Saifullah	Havi	25	1013	12	3	
		Gadhchaund	—	267	14	0	
		Total—	25	1281	10	3	
20.	Moulvi Md. Amin	Havi	1	27	5	3	
		Pachhi	1	11	3	9	
		Total—	2	38	9	0	
21.	Durdana Begam	Loam	4	60	10	9	
22.	Saikh Hasanyar	Bharwara	14	108	5	6	
23.	Mir Qayamuddin Ali Khan	-do-	7	101	6	0	
24.	Basant Lal	Havi	5-8K	112	5	3	
25.	Hadi Ali Khan	Tirsath	18	372	12	6	
26.*	Rai Himmat Sahai and others	Badi Bhusadi	29	403	3	0	
		Ahis	47	1166	14	6	
		Hirni	13	27	7	6	
		Total—	89	1597	9	0	
27.	Ahmad Ali Beg Khan	Nanpur	174	3268	9	9	
28.	Sibghatullah	Barail	13	113	3	9	
	Grand Total—		1212-15K	22361	12	9	

* The Parwana of Council contains the amount of Dasturat-Malikana in total Rs. 1605/15/9 which is known correct and comes up with the Parwana in Grand Total. But the statement no. 7329 G. contains the figures as shown above against each Parwana.

Note :—This statement has been prepared from the statement nos. 7329 & 7330 G. while the Parwana contains only Col. No. 2 in 5 the total amount without distinction of separate allotment.

The Decennial Settlement

The Darbhanga Raj remained under the direct possession of Raja Madho Singh from 1781 to 1789 and the stipulations were complied with by him. When Lard Cornwallis (1786-93), with the recommendation of Sir John Shore, decided upon a decennial settlement in 1789, the Raja was in a dilemma. Mr. Robert Bathurst, the then Collector of Tirhut wrote a letter to the Raja on the 20th September 1789 to file a petition for the settlement of his estate as directed by the Governor-General-in-Council. But the Raja was not in a position to reply to the letter. The Collector himself came to Darbhanga from Muzaffarpur in the October, 1719 for the abjustment of the settlement map of Sarkar Tirhut and again asked the Raja to file a petition for the settlement of his ancestral properties and personally called on the Raja and instructed him to obey the orders of the Governor-General. But the Raja did not agree. There was a good deal of discrepancy in the estimates of the jama made by the Raja and the Collector. After the lapse of 3 months the Collector again came to Darbhanga in January, 1790 and urged the Raja in presence of Messrs. Elms and Smith to submit a petition for the settlement on the fair and equitable Jama proposed by the Government. In spite of this, the Raja did not give way to his proposal. The Collector issued a Parwana in his name on 27 May, 1790 and informing the Raja properly that the reasonable Jama of his estates would be Rs. 134567/1/9, had been forwarded to the Governor-General-in-Council at Calcutta.[41]

The Raja still declined to accept the Decennial settlement. The Collector then stopped the payment of Dasturat-Malikana,[42] and referring to the terms of the grant made to Raja Ragho Singh, he declared. "Instead of relieving distressed, has multiplied it, instead of doing justice he has been the instrument of injustice; instead of putting the country in a flourishing state, he has desolated it; instead of furnishing the Ryots with the necessaries for cultivation he has driven them by repeated extortions from the fields which once were loaded with the fruits of their industry."[43]

The Raja appealed to the Governor-General-in-Council for the restoration of his properties. The Governor-General-in-Council sought an information on the point whether the Raja was willing to take settlement of his Raj on the Jama which had been proposed and which had already been re-

41. Vide Parwana No. G. 8261.

42. Vide No. G. 7330.

43. Vide Bengal district Gazetteers of O' Mallay, Vol. V, Chapter 15, p. 143.

ferred to him during the pendency of the Dasturat-Malikana recovery suit. The Collector finally asked the Raja on the 17th August 1790 to accept the setlement on that basis, adding this otherwise the settlement would be made with others.[44]

The Raja did not choose to accept the offer. The Estate was, therefore, leased out to two farmers, Mir Barkattullah Khan and Mohammad Faiyazuddin. But in November 1791, the latter resigned his share, alleging that the Raja prevented the tenants from paying rent and that he could realise Rs. 6000/- only at of the instalment of Asin which was fixed at Rs. 24000/-. Shortly afterwards, Mir Barkattullah Khan was killed by a fall from his horse at Patna, and his heirs refused to continue the lease.[45]

A Parganawar statement of "Fair and equitable Jama of the Darbhanga Estate", which was proposed in the decennial settlement runs as follows :—

Sl. no.	Name of the Parganas.	Total no. of the villages under each Pargana.	Total area in Bighas.	Proposed Revenue.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6
				Rs. As. P.	
1.	Hati	158	—	17307—10— 6	
2.	Pariharpur Ragho	80	—	3425— 2— 0	
3.	Pariharpur Jabil	1	1500	912— 5— 6	
4.	Gopalpur	11-5¾	4775	2215—10— 0	
5.	Loam	13	5100	2062—14— 0	
6.	Salimpur Mahua	2	500	144— 0— 0	
7.	Havi	11	4551	1751— 2— 6	
8.	Bharwara	5	601	311— 0— 0	
9.	Barail	3	300	159— 0— 0	
10.	Ladauri	19	8100	840— 6— 0	
11.	Dilawarpur	71	15800	611— 9— 0	
12.	Bahadurpur	13	3100	1135—14— 6	

44. Vide Parwana dated 17th August 1790 (Mahafizkhana).

45. Hunter Gazetteer, Vol. IV, p. 127 and Ai-nai-Tirhut, Pt. I, p. 36.

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Pariharpur Mahua	31	6700	1462— 8— 0	
14.	Narga			556—14— 3	
15.	Sarai Hamid	11	3000	630— 0— 0	
16.	Kharsand	8	2000	194— 9— 0	
17.	Pindaruch	13	1930	753— 0— 0	
18.	Tirsath	13	9000	1620— 0— 0	
19.	Jahagirabad	11	1337	325—13— 9	
20.	Jakhar	30	11551	1270— 7— 0	
21.	Jakhalpur	8-8K	1800	792—14— 3	
22.	Shahjahanpur	4	4200	888—14— 6	
23.	Ramchanund	9	1025	179—12— 6	
24.	Ahis	25-8K	10300	1530— 8— 0	
25.	Hirni	3	420	347—10— 3	
26.	Dharaur	47-2K	6606	6390—15— 0	
27.	Hamidpur	13-4K	1580	746—11— 6	
28.	Bhala	1	400	571— 0— 0	
29.	Padri	15	2650	709— 4— 0	
30.	Chakmani	6	1025	344— 3— 0	
31.	Tarso	6	400	540—14— 6	
32.	Purab Bhigo	3	131	58—14— 6	
33.	Sihora	1	180	117— 0— 0	
34.	Bhadwar	2	75	27— 5— 3	
35.	Naredigar	92	33416	11360— 12— 9	
36.	Jarail	86	32160	15315—15— 6	
37.	Alapur	313	45200	18600—10— 3	
38.	Jabdi	99	26932	9180— 7— 6	
39.	Gaur	46	7490	5595— 8— 0	
40.	Bhaur	40	7542	4025— 0— 0	
41.	Moqarabpur	—	—	1800— 0— 0	
42.	Pachhi	57	8634	5400—12— 6	
43.	Nishankhpur Korha (Taluqa Belari)	27-8K	8462	2250— 0— 0	
44.	Dehat Motafarikat (Miscellaneous villages) Siripur, Rajay, Hatadeh, Saraigadh & Akasi				
45.	Dharaur (Jaido Patti)			4100— 0— 0	

1	2	3	4	5	6
46. Gopalpur (Bhowra.)				1620— 0— 0	
47. Bharawara (Raghopur)				640— 0— 0	
				134567— 1— 9	

Note :—This statement has been prepared from the old Persian Register of the Decennial Settlement of 1197 F. and the Parganawar statement of "Fair & equitable Jama".

Grant of a large Estate by Karam Ali Khan

In this confusion, Raja Madho Singh received a large estate as gift from Md. Karam Ali Khan,[46] on the 30th September, 1795. This estate included 35 villages spread over 15 Parganas in Sarkar Tirhut. In addition, it had about 300 bighas of land in Ganjiat, which included 12 Mahallas in Darbhanga town.

Among the twelve Mahallas, some were quite important e. g. Budhoo Sarai (Modern Anand Bagh Compound) Nargauna, Murad Sherganj (eastern and nothern portions of Ram Bagh compound) Nowagarhi (Modern Raj Polo ground) and Mahalla Yusuf Ganj (Modern Kathal Bari).

After the death of Karam Ali Khan, the Raja informed the Collector that Karam Ali Khan had granted him the whole and entire estate including the lands in Ganjiat belonging to him as gift. He requested the Collector to direct the revenue officers to realise the revenue of the estate from him. To this, the Collector replied on the 11th November, 1795 that he was not authorised to do anything against the circular passed by the Governor-General-in-Council and that the Raja had been able to submit the deed of gift to the Court of the Judge and to get it confirmed under law during the life time of the deceased, it would have been easier to comply with the request.[47]

46. He was the son of Sardar Khan and the nephew and son-in-law of Shamser Ali Khan who had rebelled against Nawab Alivardi Khan in 1748. He was himself the commanding officer of Nawab Mir Jafar in 1758 and served till the advent of the British Power. The estate specified actually belonged to Shamser Ali Khan which was attached with the Nizamat due to his insurrection but it was restored to Karam Ali Khan in 1758 by Nawab Mir Jafar Ali Khan (Register of Legal Affairs of Karam Ali Khan, p. 57).

47. Ibid, p. 77.

Eventually, the estate of Karam Ali Khan was reverted to the Government. When the funeral statement (Fauti Nama) of Karam Ali Khan emphasizing the particular name of the heir to the estate was submitted to the Board, its members called for the original Mokarri Sanad of Karam Ali Khan as well as the report on the properties belonging to others, that included in his Mokarri estate. The Sanad as well as the report along with a petition of Raja Madho Singh and the other petition of Karam Ali Khan with regard to the statement of the grant of the Said Estate to the Raja, that had already been submitted to the Collector were examined. The Collector was ordered on the 12th March, 1776 by the Governor-General in Council and the members of the Board of Revenue to settle the Milkiat belonging to others while annexed to that of Khan deceased, with the same proprietors under the provision of the Decennial Settlement and to have recourse to the Thikadars on their refusal or to hold them Khas, whereas the Milkiat owned by the Khan himself with his legal heirs or with Raja Madho Singh. The Collector informed the Raja that the Milkiat belonging to others was going to be settled by the orders of the Board; and further added that Mouza Jalwara and others as his long standing Milkiat being included in the Mokarri estates of the Khan, he was asked to have their settlement. Thereupon, the Raja submitted a petition stating the usual Jama of the villages and the lands that had been prevalent since the Mokarri grant of Karam Ali Khan. The Collector let in farm the specified villages to other farmers.[48]

In respect of the settlement of the owned Milkiat of Karam Ali Khan, the Collector informed the Raja on the 7th June, 1796 that he was recognised to have been the legal heir to his Milkiat, and asked if he were willing to have the settement of the specified Milkiat granted to him as deed of gift, he might personally approach or send attorney on his behalf.[49] The Raja declined. The Milkiat was leased out to Shah Mohammad Ali conditionally till it was restored permanently to the Raja in 1800.

Then the Collector informed Shah Mohammad Ali Khan on the 10th June, 1796 that the Milkiat belonging to the Khan on the basis of the deed of gift granted by Karam Ali Khan, had been leased out under the provisions of the Decennial Settlement to him. As long as the settlement period was limited, the lease settlement would remain confirmed. But by virtue of the deed of gift as well as with the efficacy of inheritance of the

48. Ibid., p. 52.
49. Ibid., p. 68.

deceased Khan the Raja was the proprietor of the leased holding; and as such he was entitled to receive the payment of Malikana from him. Hence he was directed to pay regularly the sum of Dasturat-Malikana to the Raja.[50]

The Raja had been getting Dasturat-Malikana amounting to Rs. 262/11/3 from the Government regarding the villages Qaboolpur and Bharathi in pargana Bharwara as well as the village chhutauna in Pargana Ramchaund which was credited in the Government revenue of Zail Hati at the time of permanent settlement in 1800.[51]

Confirmation of Dasturat-Malikana For Nizamat Mahal

It has been mentioned that the Raja was debarred from the payment of Dasturat-Malikana. The Raja appealed to the Governor-General-in-Council for its restoration on which the Governor-General called for the disbursement report for the previous two years viz., 1195 and 1196 Fasli, from the Collector. As the Collector had no relevant record in his on office, he asked the Raja to submit it. The Raja submitted the report to the Collector which was approved and forwarded to Calcutta. The Governor-General-in-Council passed orders on the 12th August, 1791 to the effect that the amount of Dasturat-Malikana for Nizamat Mahal, which was paid for 1195 and 1196 Fasli to the Raja, might be added together and the total divided by two; and the salaries of the Tahasildars be deducted from one half and whatever then remained in cash might be paid from the Government to tne Raja, with effect from 1197 Fasli (1790-91) as Dasturat-Malikana of Nizamat Mahal. Accordingly, accounts were prepared and they stood thus at Rs. 44362. 15 as. 3p. plus 42071. 5 as. 9 p. =Rs. 86434. 5 as. (Dasturat.Malikana for 1195 and 1196 Fasli) half of which was Rs. 43217. 2 as. 6 p. and from which Rs. 1936. 15 as. (the pay of the collecting Amlas) was deducted leaving Rs. 41280.3 as 6 p. in sicca, which was paid regularly to the Raja by the Collector till the restoration of his estate permanently in 1800. Thereafter it was credited in the revenue of Zail Hati.[52]

The Permanent Settlement and its Effects

The Governor-General-in-Council, with the sanction of the Court of Directors, declared the Decennial Settlement to be permanent

50. Ibid., p. 90.
51. Vide No. 7331 G.
52. Vide statement No. 7330 G. and extract of a letter from the Governor-General-in-Council, dated the 7th October, 1791, no. 9135 G.

in 1793. This decision, however, did not affect the estate of Raja Madho Singh. The Collector asked the Raja to engage for the permanent Settlement, alleging that one farmer had resigned his share, and the other was killed by a fall from his horse at Patna. But the Raja again refused the settlement. The lease was then renewed to a number of small lease holders from 1793 to 1800. When it expired, negotiations were again entered into with the Raja. The Collector tendered the estate for an annual revenue of Rs. 168506. But the Raja's accounts showed that only Rs. 142053 could fairly be demanded. The estate was once more let in farm. Eventually, however, the Raja agreed to an increase of Rs. 10000/-, and this compromise was accepted by the Board of Revenue.[53] The Estate was permanently restored to the Raja on these terms on 7 April, 1800 with the Sanction of the Board of Revenue. The members of the Board forwarded the Settlement report of the Raj to the Governor-General-in-Council for approval on 6 May, 1800 which was approved by the Council of Calcutta on 22 May, 1800. The Collector of Tirhut was informed on 29 May, 1800 by the members of the Board, and the Raja by the Collector through a Parwana dated 15 June, 1800.

Through this settlement, the Government revenue was fixed at Rs. 167162/2/5, out of which Rs. 46920/8/6, the sum of Dasturat-Malikana of Nizamat, Zabti and some of the Jagir Mahals and Rs. 2208/10/6g/3c. as per account given below were deducted, leaving a net balance of Rs. 118032/11/11 g./2c.[54]

This, bore Tauzi no. 6424 called "Zail Hati" in the Darbhanga revenue roll; while in that of Bhagalpur for the Parganas Nisankpur Korha and Naredigar, nos. 494 and 535 respectively. It covered an area of 944 square miles, scattered over 42 Parganas and 720 villages in Darbhanga, of which 100 acres were in Muzaffarpur District. The revenue demand payable by the Raj in Darbhanga was reduced to Rs. 105205,[55] details of which are stated below in three statements :—

1. A Parganawar statement of the Permanent Settlement of "Zail Hati" containing total number of the villages and the revenue against each Pargana.

2. Detailed account of Rs. 46920/8/6, the sum of Dasturat-Malikana deducted from the revenue in the Permanent Settlement.

53. Ainai-Tirhut, P. I, p. 46, and Darbhanga Survey and Settlement Report, p. 19.
54. Parwana dated 15.6.1800.
55. Darbhanga Survey Settlement Report, p. 19.

3. Detailed account of Rs. 2208/10/6g./3c. deducted from the revenue of "Zail Hati" as per Parwana dated 15 June, 1800.

Statement No. I

A Parganawar statement of the Permanent Settlement of "Zail Hati" containing total number of the villages and the revenue agatnst each Pargana :—

Sl. No.	Name of the Parganas.	Total no. of the villages.	Revenue of each Parganas.
1	2	3	4
			Rs. As. P.
1.	Hati	150-12K	21620— 4— 9
2.	Jarail	90	14190—13— 0
3.	Laduari	31	2482— 2— 3
4.	Narga	5	1135—15— 0
5.	Pariharpur Jabdi	1	1070— 0— 0
6.	Salimpur Mahua	2	212— 7— 6
7.	Sihora	1	120—11— 0
8.	Pariharpur Mahuas	34	3518—12— 9
9.	Jabdi	99	11914—15— 3
10.	Dilawarpur	72	1919— 4— 9
11.	Gopalpur	13	3138— 8— 9
12.	Loam	16	3281— 0— 0
13.	Bhadwar	2	28—15— 9
14.	Hirni	3-8K	179— 6— 6
15.	Jakhar	28	1389— 2— 6
16.	Jakhalpur	8	828— 0— 0
17.	Chakmani	8	501—10— 0
18.	Hamidpur	10-4K	588—15— 0
19.	Ahis	25-8K	1574—12— 9
20.	Bahadurpur	12	2277— 5— 0
21.	Ahilwara	11	256—13— 6
22.	Purab Bhigo	13	162—13— 6
23.	Alapur	316	14784— 3— 0
24.	Nisankpur Korha	27-8K	2720—14— 3
25.	Tirsath	8-8K	1063— 4— 6
26.	Ramchaund	8	183— 5— 0
27.	Pindaruch	10	861—11— 0

1	2	3	4
28.	Havi	12-7K	1249— 1— 9
29.	Sarai Hamid	11	617—13— 6
30.	Kharsand	8	601- 4— 3
31.	Pariharpur Ragho	80	4310— 6-- 3
32.	Gaur	46	5244— 8— 6
33.	Bhaur	40	4687— 0— 0
34.	Pachhi	61	6833—14— 3
35.	Naredigar	105	13613— 7— 6
36.	Dharaur	59-3½K	6692—12— 0
37.	Bhala	4	1249— 8— 0
38.	Shahjahanpur	3	433— 8— 5
39.	Bharwara	6	986— 5— 0
40.	Tilakchaund	1	10— 4— 9
41.	Mokarrabpore	13	2774— 8— 6
42.	Jahangirabad	8-2K.	356— 9— 9
43.	Padri	20	785—14— 9
44.	Bharwara, the resumed Jagir of Nawab Mozaffar Jang.	16	11682— 1— 6
45.	Kasma, alias Nagarbasti, the resumed Jagir of Maharaja Rajbullub Bahadur.	63-1¼K	8456— 9— 6
46.	Kamat	——	4560— 8— 0
	Grand Total—	1562-11¾K	167162— 2— 5

Statement No. II

Detailed account of Rs. 46920/8/6, the sum of Dasturat-Malikana deducted from the revenue in the Permanent Settlement:—

	Rs. As. P.
1. Revenue according to the Amaldastak of Permanent Settlement dated 7. 4. 1800	167162- 2- 5

2. Details that were removed in the settlement of Zail Hati. Dasturat-Malikana of Ntzamat Mahal	41280– 3– 6		
3. Dasturat - Malikana out of the Jagir of Nawab Mozaffar Jang Bahadur	1419– 4– 0	Bharwara	Rs. 1233– 4– 0
		Bhala	Rs. 125– 0– 0
		Tirsath	Rs. 61– 0– 0
			Rs. 1419– 4– 0
4. Dasturat-Malikana of Maharaja Rajbullub's Jagir in Pargana Kasma	2818–15– 9		
5. Dasturat-Malikana of Zabti Mahals not included in Nizamat Mahal Zubted in 1205 F.	583–15– 6		
6. Dasturat - Malikana out of the Jagir of Hedayat Hussian Khan	56–10– 0	For Pargana Mahila.	
7. Dasturat-Malikana of Nowbad Mahal	592–14– 6		
8. Malikana of Kabulpur and Bharathi Pargana Bharwara	252– 9– 3		
9. Malikana for Mouza Chootauna Pargana Ramchaund	10– 2– 0		
Total	46920– 8– 6		
Balance Revenue	Rs. 120241– 9–11		

Statement No. 3

Detailed account of Rs. 2208-10-4 deducted from the Revenue of Zail Hati with the sanction of the members of the Board as per Pargana dated 15 June, 1800:—

	Rs. As. P.	
1. Balance revenue settled as above	120241- 9-11	
Details that have been removed from the revenue of Zail Hati as per Parwana 15 June, 1800.		
2. Rasoom Nakdi	958- 0- 0	
3. Rozina Sadria Moharrir	495- 0- 0	
4. Sair compensation on account of Sair abolishion of Mokarri Istamrari of Mouza Mohammadinagar alias Rosera, Pargana Kasma alias Nagarbasti, the Mahal of resumed Jagir. ...	755-10- 4	The Raj was entitled to this sum from the Government since the attachment of the Jagir of the late Maharaja Rajbullub Bahadur, it being on account of the Sair of the village Rosera included in the certificates forwarded to the members of the Board on the 22 June, 1797 and which was approved with their letter of the 10 July (vide 7331 G.)
Total—	2208-10- 4	

Statement No. 4

Detailed accounts of the Government Revenue of Touzi No. 6424 in Darbhanga :—

	Revenue Roll. Rs. As. P.
1. Net balance of Revenue as shown in the above statement...	118032- 5- 7
Details that have been removed from the settlement of Zail Hati.	

	Rs. As. P.	Remarks
2. Pargana Nisankhpur Korha, District Bhagalpur, Touzi no. 494 being separated from Zail Hati and amalgamated with Bhagalpur according to quinquennial Register...	2720-14-3	Bandobast Register of the year 1228 F. and quinquennial register.
3. Pargana Naredigar, District Bhagalpur Touzi no. 535 being separated from Darbhanga & amalgamated With Bhagalpur...	136 13-7-6	do
4. Pargana Tilakchaund, District Muzaffarpur which is dispossessed.	10-4-9	As per Amaldastak.
5. Village Simuar Pargana Hati, 4 villages being separated after the settlement, and settled with others by East India Company on increase Jama......	111-2-3	As per Bandobast Register of 1298 F.
6. Village ParIharpur Nonahi, Parsanda and Sahsaram Para Pargana Pariharpur Mahua 8 villages settled as above mentioned.........	603-15-6	do
7. Village Majhoura Pargana Dilawarpur one village as mentioned above.	19-6-3	do

8. Mahal Kakraul Pargana Jarail, Touzi no. 2415 being separated from Zail Hati, another Touzi was fixed and Jama removed...............	3935- 2-9	Certified copy of Register of Izad-Batta Company.
9. Kamat Kasma	3303- 8-3	
Total—	24317-13-6	
Net balance of revenue...	93715- 2-1	
(a) Batta Company ...	6247-10-6	According to the certificate copy of Register of Izad-Batta Company.
(b) Namak Sair...	5262-6-6	As per Kabuliat and Titamma Register..
	105225-3-1	
Deducted on account of Railway...	37-13-6	
Net balanee of revenue as per Register D...	105187-5-7	

From Statement No. 2 it is learnt that the Raj was allowed credit in the Government revenue of Zail Hati for the full and entire amount of Dasturat-Malikana of Nizamat Mahal as also Rs. 1475/14/- out of the Dasturat-Malikana of Jagir and Altamgha Mahals.

Thereafter, the Jagirs of many others were occasionally reverted to the Government on the failure of their heirs while many others were attached when the Resumption Proceedings (1830-1850) were carried out in Darbhanga under Regulation II of 1819 and were settled permanently with others. The Government, however, undertook the responsibility of paying the dasturat-Malikana of these Mahals regularly to the Raj. These attachments were made, in most cases, between the years 1836 and 1841 (1243 to 1248 F.); and since the date of attachment, the Raj was receiving their Dasturat-Malikana from the Government. A Statement showing the detailed account of Dasturat-Malikana of Jagir Mahals is given in the following table :—

Name of the Jagirdars.	Amount of Dasturat-Malikana as per Parwana of Council dt. 24-2-1780.	Amount attached by the Government and included in the Nizamat Mahal.	Amount irrecoverable relinquished or otherwise accounted for.	Amount deducted in the settlement of Zail Hati.	Amount recoverable by the Jagirdars directly.	Net balance in sicca rupees.	Current coins receivable from the Government.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
1. Nawab Muzaffar Jung	6956–10– 9	—	5537– 6– 9	1419– 4– 0	—	—	—
2. Maharaja Kalyan Singh	2006– 1– 0	—	—	—	—	2006– 1– 0	2139–12– 9
3. Ahmad Ali Khan	342–11– 0	—	—	—	—	342–11– 9	365– 9– 5
4. Md. Erij Khan	1567– 5– 6	—	60–13– 6	—	—	1506– 8– 0	1606–14–11
5. Mehrulla Khan	796– 2– 9	—	—	—	—	796– 2– 9	849– 4– 0
6. Abdul Quasim Khan	101– 5– 0	101– 5– 0	—	—	—	—	—
7. Ali Asghar	196– 4– 9	—	—	—	—	196– 4– 9	209– 6– 6
8. Raham Ali Khan	433–10– 6	—	—	—	158– 6– 9	275– 3– 9	293– 9– 3
9. Khadim Hussain Khan	556– 3– 9	—	154–12–11	—	75– 3– 1	326– 3– 9	347–15– 8
10. Hedayat Hussain Khan	164– 7– 0	56–10– 0	107–13– 0	—	—	—	—
11. Hassan Raza Khan	367– 5– 6	—	128– 6– 6	—	—	238–15– 0	254–13–11
12. Khairun Nisa	80– 1– 9	—	—	—	—	80– 1– 9	85– 7– 0
13. Md. Shakir Khan	412– 3– 0	—	—	—	204– 7– 3	207–11– 9	221–10– 4

14. Md. Taqi Khan	785– 9– 3	—	129– 0– 3	—	—	656– 9– 0	700– 5– 4
15. Ghulam Hyder Khan	159–10– 3	—	—	—	—	159–10– 3	170– 4– 6
16. Md. Ali Khan	151– 4– 3	—	—	—	—	151– 4– 3	161– 5– 8
17. Mir Faylullah	123–15– 0	—	—	—	123–15– 0	—	—
18. Mir Shafiullah	97– 4– 6	—	—	—	—	97– 4– 6	103–12– 3
19. Mir Saifullah	1281–10– 3	1281–10– 3	—	—	—	—	—
20. Moulvi Md. Amin	38– 9– 0	—	—	—	—	38– 9– 0	41– 2– 0
21. Durdana Begam	60–10– 9	—	—	—	—	60–10– 9	64–11– 5
22. Sk. Hassanyar	108– 5– 6	—	—	—	108– 5– 6	—	—
23. Mir Qayamuddin Ali Khan	101– 6– 0	—	—	—	—	101– 6– 0	108– 1– 4
24. Basant Lall	112– 5– 3	—	—	—	—	112– 5– 3	119–12–10
25. Hakim Hadi Ali Khan	372–12– 6	—	—	—	—	372–12– 6	397– 9–10
26. Bai Himat Sahai and others	1605–15– 9	—	161–10–10	476–1– 5	—	968– 3– 6	1932–12– 0
27. Ahmad Ali Khan	3268– 9– 9	—	94–15– 9	—	—	3173–10– 0	3385– 3– 3
28. Sibghatullah	113– 3– 9	—	—	—	—	113– 3– 9	120–12–7½
Total—	22361–12– 9	1439– 9– 3	6374–15– 6	1895– 5– 5	670– 5– 7	11981– 9– 0	12780– 5– ½

Detailed account of Dasturat-Malikana receivable from the Muzaffarpur Collectorate :—

Sl. No.	Name of the Mahals.	Parganas.	Total amount of Dasturat-Malikana.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5
			Rs. As. P.	
1.	Maharaja Kalyan Singh	Barail & etc.	2139-12- 9	
2.	Md. Erij Khan	Bosatar & etc.	1606-14-11	
3.	Ali Asghar	Gadhchaund and etc.	209- 6- 6	
4.	Raham Ali Khan	—do—	293- 9- 3	
5,	Khadim Hussain Khan	Tirsath & etc.	347-15- 8	
6.	Hakim Hadi Ali Khan	Tirsath	397- 9-10	
7.	Ahmad Ali Khan	Nanpur	3385- 3- 3	
			8380- 8- 2	

Detailed account of Dasturat-Malikana receivable from the Darbhanga Collectorate :—

Sl. No.	Name of the Mahals.	Parganas.	Total amount of Dasturat-Malikna.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5
			Rs. As. P.	
1.	Ahmad Ali Khan	Bhaur	365- 9-5	
2.	Mehrullah Khan	Ahilwara & etc.	849- 4-0	
3.	Hassan Raza Khan	Gopalpur	254-13-11	
4.	Khairun Nissan	Dharaur	85- 7-3	
5.	Md. Shakir Khan	Bharwara & etc.	221-10-4	
6.	Md. Taqi Khan	Sihor & etc.	700- 5-4	
7.	Ghulam Hydar Khan	Ughara & etc.	170- 4-6	
8.	Md. Ali Khan	Barail	161- 5-8	
9.	Mir Shafiullah	,,	103-12-3	
10.	Moulvi Md. Amin	Havi & etc.	41- 2-0	
11.	Durdana Begam	Loam	64-11-5	
12.	Mir Qaymuddin Ali Kan	Bharwara	108- 1-4	

13.	Basant Lall	Havi	119-12-10
14.	Rai Himat Sahai and others	Ahis & etc.	1032-12-0
15.	Sibghatullah	Barail	120-12-7½
16.	Rai Rupchand	Ramchaund	586-13-11
			4986-10-9½

It was observed by the Privy Council (6 Moore's Indian Appeals, 164) that before the territory came in possession of the East India Company there was principality. In 1800, Raja Madho Singh retained land what was in his personal possession in a number of parganas in Tirhoot. The remnant of the Raj, covering a large area, consisting of a number of small states, was excluded from the Permanent Settlement with him.

The part played by the Darbhanga Raj in the evolution of the land reforms in Bihar must be reserved for a separate examination.
